

## **FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Renewal of the Avista Cooperative Management Area Agreement

**Division/Bureau:** Enforcement

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Min

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### **Background**

This proposal would renew, the current Cooperative Management Area agreement with the Avista Corporation for property in Sanders County for 2019 and 2020. This is a recreational area heavily used by the public along the Clark Fork River near Thompson Falls. The Cooperative Management Agreement rules would provide for the enforcement of public access rules for camping, fishing, hunting, boating and other outdoor activities during parts of the year that fall outside of the general fall hunting season. Several other Avista properties would remain in the Block Management program for hunting.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

This cooperative use agreement has worked well for the past two years. Public comment can be taken at this meeting or during a subsequent period if the commission requires it.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Without adoption of this proposal, FWP would not be able to operate under a special use agreement and would only provide enforcement during the block management season. Enforcement efforts could be hampered if violators cannot be prosecuted outside of hunting season, potentially resulting in decreased access on Avista lands in Sanders County.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP proposes the Commission approve this agreement. This rule will result in continued free public access on Avista lands year-round.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed Avista Cooperative Management Area Biennial Rule.